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GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL MONOPOLIES

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N. R. P. A. † K. R. P. A.

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### JO McDILL'S MUSINGS.

#### ANARCHY.

At the time President McKinley was assassinated, I offered to bet ten dollars that Czolgosz voted the Republican ticket. It appears now that I would have won the money all right.

Guiteau was a Republican, and turned assassin because he had no share in the spoils.

Czolgosz was a Republican, and turned assassin because he perceived that our government, as now administered, benefits the few to the detriment of the many. As Czolgosz saw it, no government at all would be better than a government for the few.

Both men are the outgrowth of modern Republicanism. A Republican politician seeks office for what he can make out of it in dollars and cents. Honor and the good of the people are cast to the winds. The incitement to political action would disgrace a barbarian. It follows that when such men fail to win what they seek, they are filled with bitterness and hate. Guiteau's cup of hate boiled over in the pistol of the assassin. Other men's hate boils over in secret cabals and underhanded dirty work in the effort to overthrow rivals. As a result of the unworthiness of Republican politicians, the party is a seething mass of warring factions. The wonder is that there are not more Guiteaus.

Czolgosz may, or may not, have had a sincere regard for the welfare of the working people. Whatever he felt, it is evident that he held government in detestation. No sane man hates good government, and, from my standpoint, no sane man can believe in Czolgosz's methods. No wrong can be righted by wrong methods. Czolgosz's methods are not only wrong, but diabolically wrong. It was the votes of millions of men that placed McKinley in the office of president. McKinley was the instrument, not the power. He was a club in the hands of a giant.

If the anarchists were to, in one day, kill all the officers in the United States, it would not avail to destroy the government. The constitution would still live. The mass of the people would still favor government, and, within twenty-four hours of the slaughter of officers, government would be temporarily reorganized, and law would again reign with the same authority as if it had not been assailed. Briefly, the human race will never accept the theory of anarchists, or, at least, not until humanity has attained to perfection; and that time seems to be too remote for contemplation or discussion.

As a matter of fact, we have nothing to fear from the Czolgosz type or anarchist. The dangerous anarchist is one who undermines the constitution; who defeats the ends of law, and who uses the instruments of the constitution to defeat the objects of the constitution.

It must not be assumed that there are no such anarchists. They are plentiful in number and powerful in wealth and influence. Money and falsehood are their weapons. They sandbag their victims in the dark or drug them with the stupefying decoctions of false hopes. This class of anarchist is the anarchist at the top. Strange as it may seem, it is nevertheless true that wherever the anarchist destroyed government, it was the anarchist at the top who brought about the necessary conditions that produced destruction. In every instance, in all history, it was the ruling classes that overthrew governments and wrecked civilization. It may be claimed that the French revolution was

an exception. The French revolution could not have occurred had it not been for the brutal treatment of the masses at the hands of the classes that ruled. The French revolution, with its bloody reign of terror, was the work of French kings, French nobles and French clergy. It was they who brutalized the people. Rendered ferocious through the suffering of poverty and brutal injustice, the people turned upon their oppressors, and the destroyer was, in turn, treated to a feast of his own preparation, in which his blood deluged the earth, and his flesh became carrion.

That man is blind who cannot see that such conditions as prevailed in Rome before her overthrow, or prevailed in France before the revolution, are already ushered in, in America.

Briefly, wealth is the power behind legislatures, courts and officers, and the effect is to oppress the masses in robbing labor of a fair share of its reward, and refusing the laborer that perfect justice that insures the perpetuity of good government, or any government at all. That wealth is the power behind government is demonstrated in a hundred ways, and that falsehood is used to deceive the people is as capable of proof as that the sun shines.

These top anarchists, who collect dividends off the people on watered stock, refuse to pay even a decent share of the taxes. To water stock and collect dividends thereon, and dodge taxes on the accumulations of modern brigandage, it was necessary to buy legislatures, pack courts and subsidize congress and the executive. It was also necessary to own the newspapers.

To-day, justice carries no certainty of success when the suit is against a corporation. No law against corporations, if any such succeeds in enactment, is sure of enforcement. No truth appears in the columns of many newspapers if such truth would tend to arouse a hostile public sentiment to the encroachment of the corporations upon the rights and happiness of the masses. We have searched the stage of an organized conspiracy. We have the anarchy of treason.

If not being enough to refuse justice and withhold the truth, the conspirators resort to the blackest of falsehood. Be he farmer, mechanic or employe in a factory or on a railroad, he must be content and keep his mouth shut. Any protest, mild or otherwise, is met with a flood of abuse and misrepresentation, and in junctions multiply with accelerated frequency.

The shotted cannon is being cast for strikers, and labor organizations, if they exist at all, will be forced into dark and secret places, as if their

members were criminals of the darkest color. A raid is being planned upon free speech and a free press, and as preliminary to the sweep of heavy battalions, the scouts are in the field. Those bulwarks of a free people will be assailed within the next half-dozen years, unless the foes of top anarchy muster to the combat in such numbers as will drive the foes of good government into the depths of eternal infamy and oblivion.

#### One Eye Open.

The Commoner.

When Mr. Bryan spoke at Minneapolis, during the campaign of 1896, Former Senator Washburn addressed a letter to him asking certain questions. It was an unusual thing for a man of Mr. Washburn's prominence to inject himself into a public speech, but Mr. Bryan read his letter at the meeting and responded to it. It seems that Mr. Washburn is getting acquainted with the trust question. In a recent interview, he discusses the subject with intelligence, and even vehemence. It is gratifying to note some evidence of revolt among the Republicans, who are responsible for an administration policy that permits the trusts to thrive and fatten upon the people at large. The Commoner is glad to give circulation to the following extract from Mr. Washburn's interview:

"Steel rails can be manufactured to-day at a fair profit and sold at \$17.50 a ton. At that price, the rail mills would make a larger profit on their product than the flouring mills would make by a profit of 10 cents a barrel on flour—which the flouring mills would be glad to make, but do not. From the best information I have been able to gather, steel rails can be manufactured at about \$16 per ton. Sold as they were two and a half years ago at \$17.50, there was a profit of \$1.50 a ton, which is more than the profit on flour at 10 cents per barrel, and that is a larger profit than is averaged by the flouring mills of this country. Yet, such rails are now being sold at \$28 per ton, making it easy to understand, with such enormous profits, how the steel mills are enabled to pay dividends on shares three-fourths of which are composed of water. I do not know just what sum would be required to rebuild these properties, but from what I am able to learn, I am satisfied that they can be reproduced at less than one-half the amount for which they are capitalized. The consequence is that the people and consumers of the country are being taxed to this enormous extent in order that the trusts and consolida-

tions may pay such dividends. And yet, with this condition of things, we now have a duty of \$7.80 per ton on steel rails! And what I have here said of steel rails can also be said of structural steel, which now enters into construction of different kinds to such an enormous extent. If this is not robbery, I would like to find some stronger word to characterize it."

"Robbery" is a strong word, but Mr. Washburn wants something even stronger. What will he say of an administration that permits the robbery to go on without making an effort to protect the public? Possibly Mr. Washburn has only one eye open. With this, he sees the trusts very clearly. When he gets the other eye open, he will be able to see the Republican party standing behind the trusts and receiving for campaign purposes a part of the money extorted from the people.

#### Why the People's Party Must Not be Abandoned.

The most amazing thing in politics is the efforts of the Democratic leaders to induce the Populists to abandon their own party and "go into" the Democratic party. Such tactics show a lamentable lack of good generalship in the Democrats, but suit the Republicans to a tee. The Republican leaders in Kansas realize that there is a deep-seated prejudice against Democracy, and take advantage of it on every occasion. It is the People's party they fear. It is that organization that turned the eighty thousand majority to a seemingly hopeless minority in four years. Republicans use every known artifice to keep the Democracy as the opposing party. During the last two months, we have had an unusual experience in their tactics. When the Allen County Democrat list was consolidated with the Friend list, it contained the names of many leading Republicans of the county—the uncompromising kind, who stand by the party even though a "yaller dog" be the nominee. But these all got off the list in short order—some of them courteously, others with a snort that they don't want no — Pop paper.

Several years ago, another Democratic paper ceased publication, and the list was consolidated with our paper; the same thing happened. This is only one of the many things that go to show that it is the People's party that the Republicans fear. If Democrats were better generals, they would encourage the People's party rather than try to absorb it.—Iola Friend.

And this state of affairs exists in every county in Kansas. Republicans always rally to the support of Democratic (?) papers in Kansas, and especially if they are of the Cleveland-Hill-Gorman-Carlisle stripe—are all anti-Bryan, i. e., anti-democratic.—Olathe Tribune.

So I MAY prophesy the coming of the social man to build the social kingdom. He will be a practical Christian—the only one who really does the will of the Father. He will be the divine flower of the ages. He will move in the power of social passion. He will reject self-interest, self-distinction, self-domination, in his pursuit of the common good. He will recognize the people as the extension of his own body. He will recognize God, and so will recognize the all. There will be no favoritism. This practical Christian is coming—he is coming to do the Father's will; to build the social kingdom. And we are told that 'of that kingdom there shall be no end.' It will stand because built upon the rock of affectionate justice.—Edward Markham, in N. Y. Journal.

CONGRESS is to be asked by the financiers to retire the greenbacks in order to reduce the surplus in the national treasury, which is growing to enormous proportions by reason of excessive taxation. Why not reduce the taxes? But pshaw! why talk such "Pop fallacies" as that!—Olathe Tribune.

R. L. ADAMS.

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